

and San Jose, the Capitol Corridor has significantly grown and invested in infrastructure, increasing the number of weekend trains to thirty-two, weekend trains to twenty-two and expanding its corridor to span seven counties with a total population of 6.7 million. In addition to investing in railcars and tracks, it has established signaling systems and sixteen stations that directly connect its passengers to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority buses, and Sacramento Regional Transit light rails.

Over the past twenty years, the Capital Corridor has experienced a 600 percent increase in ridership, up to 1.7 million passengers in the 2010–2011 fiscal year. In all, it has carried nearly 19 million people to travel 1.3 billion miles. With this popular intercity train service, the downtown Sacramento Valley Station is now the seventh busiest Amtrak station in the country.

The Capitol Corridor has been managed by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) since 1998. Previously, the Capitol Corridor was a partnership between Amtrak and Caltrans. The CCJPA consists of a partnership of six transit agencies from the counties serviced by the Capitol Corridor. Operating funds for the CCJPA are provided by Caltrans. Administrative costs are kept down because of the strong partnership between Amtrak, BART, Caltrain, Caltrans, CCJPA and Union Pacific Railroad. In the past twenty years, the Capitol Corridor has stayed major accident-free and also improved lives by reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Capital Corridor, and its record of giving Northern Californians more transportation options, on their 20th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Capitol Corridor's outstanding work in providing the community with much needed services.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Thomas C. Garner joined the United States Army on March 5, 1943, eager to serve his nation during World War II. Originally assigned to the revered 78th Infantry Division, Garner soon applied and was selected for Army Air Corps pilot training. He served nearly a year abroad with the Air Corps, running an oxygen generating plant on Guam in support of the B-29 bombers that raided Japan.

Six months after the war's end, Garner decided to make military service his career and

reentered what was now the United States Air Force. Garner's troop carrier organization serviced all the embassies in Central and South America and the Caribbean and, from 1948–1949, participated in the Berlin Air Lift. Over the course of his career, Garner also deployed to Japan, Wake Island, Bermuda, Bangkok, and Thailand.

Garner retired in 1970 after 27 years of active duty service. He then became a civil servant, kicking off a second, 20-year career with the Social Security Administration. During those years, Garner also served with the Texas State Guard, receiving numerous awards and citations and achieving the rank of Colonel.

An active community servant with the Plano VFW and Air Force Sergeant's Association, Garner continues to put others first.

For these reasons, it is my pleasure to name Thomas Garner a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 7, 2011, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 898. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 898: "Yes"—Jackson Lee of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6.

A TRIBUTE TO NIKITA DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Nikita Davis for her passion for teaching and serving as a mentor to the youth in her community.

Ms. Davis was influenced at a young age by her peers and teachers to serve as a role model for young adults in New York City. When she attended Mary Louis Academy for girls in Jamaica Estates, New York, her mathematics teacher made such a great impression on her that it has transcended into her current work. At the time Ms. Davis gained an affinity for working with adolescents and other students, tutoring and teaching them alongside her teachers.

When Ms. Davis enrolled in Mount St. Mary College and began studying mathematics and secondary education, she continued her work with teens in the community. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Davis was offered a teaching position in the Mathematics Department of the NYC Department of Education. She has served in this capacity for the past eight years and truly loves the difference she can make among the youth.

Ms. Davis reminds herself of how her grassroots involvement with her peers at a young age propelled her to this current post. To this day Ms. Davis still works with students after school for personal tutoring, and is a member

of the United Federation of Teachers Delegate Assembly where she serves as a union delegate for her colleagues.

A quote that offers a unique perspective into the drive Ms. Davis has for her profession is by Sasha Azevedo. "When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then you will have accomplished the meaning to live." For Ms. Davis this is the essence of her mission as an educator.

Ms. Davis lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is married to her wonderful husband Derrick and has two daughters, Anaiya and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the profound accomplishments of Ms. Nikita Davis to continue the fight of educating our youth.

THE REOPENING AMERICAN CAPITAL MARKETS TO EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES ACT OF 2011

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, unemployed Americans are crying out for more jobs and urging Congress to review rules and regulations that stifle innovation, economic growth, and job creation. I am introducing the Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act of 2011 for one reason: to increase job creation on Main Street. Burdensome costs are discouraging companies from going public, which deprives firms of the capital needed to expand their businesses and hire more American workers.

During the last fifteen years, fewer and fewer start-up companies have pursued Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to access the capital needed to expand their businesses, develop innovative products, and hire new employees. The number of IPOs in the United States is slipping behind the rest of the world in terms of growing our markets. Other markets are growing or holding steady, while the United States continues to decline. This is especially true in the Asian markets, which have seen an explosion of new public companies in recent years.

Since 2010, the Asian markets have had nearly 700 new IPOs compared to less than 300 in the United States during the same time-frame. Unfortunately, federal regulatory burdens are a major contributing factor in the steep drop of IPOs in the United States.

This decline is of concern because going public provides opportunities for companies to raise badly needed capital in order to expand, reinvest, and create jobs. From 2008–2010, 21 percent of the United States GDP was generated by venture capital-backed start-up companies. In addition, an August 2011 survey of CEOs conducted by the IPO Task Force found that over 90 percent of job growth occurs after a company goes public.

Unfortunately, a series of "one-size-fits-all" laws and regulations have changed the nature of the United States' capital markets and had a disproportionate cost on smaller American public companies. Washington's regulatory oversteps have harmed American workers by eliminating jobs that are created when a start-up company decides to go public. Instead, to